

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 MADRID 01227 041541Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 DODE-00
CIAE-00 /026 W

-----054350 041545Z /41

R 021928Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3334
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

S E C R E T MADRID 01227

EXDIS

C O R R E C T E D - C O P Y PORTIONS OF PARA 3 AND 4 WERE OMITTED

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, PCAT, MASS, LY, SP
SUBJECT: MILITARY SALES TO LIBYA

REF: STATE 024256

1. DEMARCHE OUTLINED REFTEL WAS MADE FEBRUARY 1 TO FOREIGN MINISTRY'S DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR AFRICA AND CONTINENTAL ASIA (PEDRO LOPEZ AGUIRREBENGOA) BY EMBASSY POL AND POL/MIL COUNSELORS, WHO ADDITIONALLY RECALLED THE DEMARCHE MADE TO FOREIGN MINISTER OREJA BY THE AMBASSADOR ON FEBRUARY 16, 1977, WITH RESPECT TO POSSIBLE SPANISH PRODUCTION OF SEVERAL DAPHNE OR AGOSTA CLASS SUBMARINES FOR LIBYA (77 MADRID 1276).

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2. AGUIRREBENGOA LISTENED CAREFULLY AND UNDERTOOK TO SEEK A FURTHER FOREIGN MINISTRY REACTION. HIS INITIAL REACTION WAS THAT SPANISH ARMS SALES TO LIBYA ARE INSIGNIFICANT. HE SAID HE DID NOT KNOW THE STATE OF NEGOTIATIONS ON THE SUBMARINE QUESTION. THE ONLY SIGNIFICANT ARMS SHIPMENT OF WHICH HE WAS AWARE, HE SAID, WAS THE PROVISION OF 80 106-RECOILLESS RIFLES TO

THE LIBYANS SOME TIME RECENTLY (HE DID NOT SAY WHEN).
HE WRYL SPECULATED THAT THESE, BEING IN COMBINATION WITH
LANDROVERS "THE CAMELS OF THE SAHARA", LIKELY ENDED UP
IN POLISARIO HANDS, ONLY TO BE USED AGAINST THE SAME
ITEMS PROVIDED BY SPAIN TO THE MOROCCANS.

3. COMMENT: INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO THIS MISSION TENDS
TO SUPPORT AGUIRREBENGOA'S ESTIMATE OF THE SMALL QUANTITY
OF SPANISH ARMS SHIPMENTS TO LIBYA. DIA SUMMARIES
AVAILABLE HERE ONLY REVEAL THE SHIPMENT IN 1973 OF
.8 MILLION DOLLARS WORTH OF ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES AND
GRENADES. PUBLISHED SPANISH COMMERCIAL FIGURES FOR 1976
LIST, FOR EXAMPLE, THE FOLLOWING:

- REVOLVERS AND PISTOLS (VALUE 138,000 PESETAS)
- SHOTGUNS; CARBINES; SPRING-LOADED, AIR AND COMPRESSED
GAS PISTOLS (VALUE 1,410,000 PESETAS)
- OTHER ARMS (VALUE 217,000 PESETAS)
- PARTS (VALUE 75,000 PESETAS)
- MUNITIONS (VALUE 143,000 PESETAS).

THERE IS REASON TO BELIEVE THAT SOME SPANISH ARMS
MERCHANTS MAY BE INVOLVED IN TRAFFIC TO LIBYA, BUT THERE
IS LITTLE HARD INFORMATION ON THIS.

4. AS REPORTED IN DAO 6 889 0343 77 OF NOVEMBER 23,
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1977, THE AMBASSADOR WAS ASSURED IN NOVEMBER BY THE CHIEF
OF STAFF OF THE NAVY THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE
LIBYANS FOR PROVISION OF SUBMARINES WERE AT A STANDSTILL.
APPARENTLY THIS IS STILL THE CASE. STABLER

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NNN

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